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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECEMBER 2005

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during December 2005 totaled 142.1 million pounds, unchanged from the same month a year earlier but 1 percent below November 2005. **Beef** slaughter during December was down 3 percent from a year ago to 162,900 head but the average live weight increased 43 pounds to 1,325. **Hog** slaughter was placed at 1,000 head for December 2005, up from 900 head a year earlier. The average live weight of 261 pounds was 2 pounds below a year earlier. The preliminary **total red meat production** for all months of 2005 totaled 1.76 billion pounds, down 11 percent from the 1.97 billion pounds produced during 2004.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004. **Beef production**, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,100 head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from

December a year ago.

January to December 2005 commercial red meat production was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Dec. 2004	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	January-December	
				2004	2005
Million Pounds					
Colorado:	142.0	143.2	142.1	1,973.1	1,761.3
United States:	3,930.0	3,942.0	3,953.0	45,418.0	45,717.0
Beef	2,042.0	2,071.0	2,057.0	24,547.0	24,692.0
Veal	14.9	12.4	13.5	166.8	155.8
Pork	1,857.0	1,843.0	1,866.0	20,511.0	20,682.0
Lamb & Mutton	17.0	15.8	16.5	194.0	187.2

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

CATTLE INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2005

The January 1, 2006 inventory of all cattle and calves in Colorado totaled 2.65 million head, up 150,000 head from January 1, 2005. Beef cows, at 685,000 head, were up 46,000 from the previous year. Milk cows increased 4,000 head from last year to 105,000 head. Colorado's 2005 calf crop was up 4 percent from last year to 770,000.

Other class estimates as of January 1, 2006 and percent changes from 2005 were as follows: Beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 12 percent from last year to 115,000; milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, up 10 percent to 55,000 head; other heifers 500 pounds and over, no change at 570,000; steers 500 pounds and over, up 8 percent to 910,000; bulls 500 pounds and over, up 13 percent to 45,000; and calves under 500 pounds, up 27 percent to 165,000 head. The total inventory included 1,120,000 head of cattle and calves on feed, which was up 2 percent from January 1, 2005.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2006, totaled 97.1 million head, 2 percent above the 95.4 million on January 1, 2005. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.3 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2005. Beef cows, at 33.3 million,

were up 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Milk cows, at 9.06 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Other class estimates on January 1, 2006, and the change from January 1, 2005, are as follows: All heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.0 million, up 2 percent. Beef replacement heifers, 5.90 million, up 4 percent. Milk replacement heifers, 4.28 million, up 4 percent. Other heifers, 9.80 million, up slightly. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.9 million, up 3 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.26 million, up 2 percent.

Calves under 500 pounds, 15.6 million, up 2 percent. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.1 million, up 3 percent. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 28.2 million, up 2 percent.

The 2005 calf crop was estimated at 37.8 million head, up 1 percent from 2004. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2004.

SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2006

The January 1, 2006 inventory of all sheep and lambs in **Colorado** totaled 390,000 head, up 7 percent from the 365,000 on hand as of January 1, 2005. The number of breeding sheep and lambs was up 12 percent from last year at 190,000 head while the number of market sheep and lambs increased 3 percent to 200,000. There was a 20 percent increase in the number of replacement lambs to 36,000 head. The number of ewes one year old and older increased 10 percent from last year to 148,000 head, while the number of rams one year old and older increased 20 percent from last year to 6,000. Of the 200,000 head of market sheep and lambs, 3,000 head were market sheep and 197,000 head were market lambs.

There were 3,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, up 1,000 from a year earlier; 9,000 were in the 65-84 pound weight group, up from 6,000 from the previous year; 40,000 weighed 85-105 pounds compared with 39,000 last year; and 145,000 weighed over 105 pounds compared with the 147,000 head in this weight group on January 1, 2005. The 2005 lamb crop, at 175,000 head, was up 6 percent from the 2004 lamb crop of 165,000.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent

of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.

WOOL PRODUCTION – 2005

Wool production in **Colorado** during 2005 totaled 2.65 million pounds, up from 2.57 million pounds produced in 2004. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 420,000 head, was up 8 percent from 390,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2005 totaled \$1.67 million, down 24 percent from a year earlier as producers received 63 cents per pound of wool sold compared with 85 cents per pound the previous year.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of 26.3 million dollars, down 12 percent from 29.9 million dollars in 2004.

GOAT INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2006

All goat inventory in **Colorado** on January 1, 2006, totaled 32,000 head. Meat and all other goats accounted for 24,000 head compared with 22,000 on January 1, 2005. Milk goats totaled 7,000 head, no change from last year at this time, and Angora goats also remain unchanged from last year at 1,000 head.

All goat inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2006, totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from 2005. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.35 million head up 4 percent from 2005. All market goats and kids totaled 471,800 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2006 meat and all other goats totaled 2.26 million head, up 5 percent from 2005. Milk goat inventory increased 1 percent to 288,000 head while angora goats were down 1 percent totaling 278,000 head. The 2005 kid crop totaled 1.84 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2004.

Mohair production in the **United States** during 2005 was 1.82 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 273,000 head. Average weight per clip was 6.7 pounds. Mohair price was \$2.78 per pound with a value of 5.1 million dollars.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES JANUARY 15, 2006

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 3 points (2.6 percent) from December. The Crop Index is down 3 points (2.7 percent) and the Livestock Index also decreased 3 points (2.5 percent). Producers received lower commodity prices for lettuce, turkeys, eggs, and hogs. Higher prices were received for cattle, oranges, corn, and cotton.

The January **All Crops Index** is 107, down 2.7 percent from December but 4.9 percent above January 2005. The January all wheat price, at \$3.48 per bushel, is down 6 cents from December but up 5 cents from January 2005. The corn price, at \$1.96 per bushel, is up 4 cents from last month but 16 cents below January 2005. The all hay price, at \$91.20 per ton, is 80 cents below December but up \$3.40 from last January. Grain sorghum, at \$3.15 per cwt, is 24 cents above December and 20 cents above January last year. The soybean price, at \$5.51 per bushel, decreased 26 cents from December and is 6 cents below January 2005. The all potato price, at \$7.00 per cwt, is up 7 cents from December and up \$1.41 from last January. The all dry bean price, at \$17.50 per cwt, is down \$1.10 from the previous month and \$9.70 below January 2005.

The January **Livestock and Products Index**, at 117, is 2.5 percent below last month and down 3.3 percent from January 2005. The January hog price, at \$41.60 per cwt, is down \$2.70 from December and \$11.60 lower than a year ago. The January beef cattle price of \$94.40 per cwt is up 80 cents from last month and \$5.00 higher than January 2005. The January all milk price of \$14.50 per cwt is down 30 cents from last month and down \$1.40 from January 2005. The January all milk price of \$15.90 per cwt is down \$0.50 from last month but up \$2.70 from December 2004.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005		2006
	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.
	Percent				
Prices Received.....	111	111	115	112	
Prices Paid.....	134	137	143	145	
Ratio 1/.....	83	81	80	77	

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Compared with January 2005, all **Colorado** crop prices except corn and dry beans averaged higher. Prices for all livestock items except cows averaged higher than a year ago. Mid-January 2006 wheat, at \$3.49 per bushel, decreased 5 cents from the previous month but was 17 cents above January a year ago. Corn, at \$2.05 per bushel, averaged 6 cents below December 2005 and was 17 cents below January 2005. The mid-January potato price, at \$8.70 per cwt, was up 30 cents from last month and up \$4.00 per cwt from January a year ago. Dry beans prices increased \$1.80 per cwt from December to \$19.50 per cwt but were \$9.50 per cwt lower

than January last year. Alfalfa hay, at \$103.00 per ton, was \$3.00 above last month and \$17.00 above January 2005. The other hay price, at \$99.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but was \$18.00 above the January 2005 price. The mid-January steer and heifer price, at \$119.00 per cwt, unchanged from last month but was \$11.00 above a year ago. Cow prices increased 90 cents per cwt from December to \$47.70 per cwt but averaged \$4.60 per cwt below January 2005. The mid-January 2006 calf price was \$2.00 above last month at \$139.00 per cwt and was \$11.00 above a year ago. The January all milk price of \$14.10 per cwt is down 20 cents from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Jan. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.30	3.54	3.49
Corn.....	Bu.	2.22	2.11	2.05
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2.97	2/	2/
Potatoes.....	Cwt	4.70	8.40	8.70
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	29.00	17.70	19.50
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	86.00	100.00	103.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	81.00	99.00	99.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	107.00	118.00	118.00
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	108.00	119.00	119.00
Cows.....	Cwt	52.30	46.80	47.70
Calves.....	Cwt	128.00	137.00	139.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	46.60	44.40	3/
Lambs.....	Cwt	114.00	102.00	3/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	3/	14.30	14.10
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.43	3.54	3.48
Corn.....	Bu.	2.12	1.92	1.96
Soybeans.....	Bu.	5.57	5.77	5.51
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2.41	2.49	2.41
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	1.65	1.74	1.79
Sorghum.....	Cwt	2.95	2.91	3.15
Potatoes.....	Cwt	5.59	6.93	7.00
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	27.20	18.60	17.50
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	94.50	97.70	95.60
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	73.30	78.00	79.30
Onions.....	Cwt	6.29	12.30	11.60
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	89.40	93.60	94.40
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	94.40	99.90	101.00
Cows.....	Cwt	50.50	47.20	46.50
Calves.....	Cwt	125.00	134.00	137.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	53.50	46.90	3/
Lambs.....	Cwt	114.00	102.00	3/
Hogs.....	Cwt	53.20	44.30	41.60
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	15.90	14.80	14.50
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.430	0.390	0.380

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure. 3/ Mid-month prices discontinued.

CHICKENS AND EGGS DECEMBER 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 94 million eggs during December 2005 compared with 89 million one month earlier and 93 million during December 2004. The number of layers during December totaled 3.89 million, down 3 percent from 3.99 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for December 2005, was 2,417 eggs per 100 layers, up nearly 4 percent from the December 2004, total of 2,333 eggs per 100 layers.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.79 billion during December 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.70 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The number of layers during December 2005 averaged 348 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,237 eggs, up slightly from December 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2006, totaled 349 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.74 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2006, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from January 1, 2005.

GRAZING FEE RATES 2005

Colorado monthly grazing fee rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land in 2005 averaged higher than the previous year in all three categories. Animal unit per month (AUM) averaged \$14.50, up 7 percent from \$13.50 in 2004. Cow-calf rates were up 6 percent to \$16.00 per month from \$15.00 last year. Grazing rates averaged \$14.30 per month on a per head basis, 2 percent higher than in 2004.

Grazing fee rates for the **17 Western States** listed in the table averaged higher in two of the three categories from the previous year. The animal unit rate rose 10 cents to \$13.20 per month, an increase of nearly 1 percent from 2004. Cow-calf rates decreased 10 cents to \$15.20 representing an decrease of 1 percent from last year. A 30 cent increase in the per head rate was a 2 percent increase from the previous year.

R. René Picanso
Director

Steve Anderson
Deputy Director

Grazing Fee Rates for Cattle by Selected States and Regions

Survey Average Rates ^{1/}						
State	Animal Unit ^{2/}		Cow-Calf		Per Head	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month	
AZ.....	8.00	8.00	7/	7/	9.00	9.50
CA	14.50	15.40	19.50	20.50	15.50	17.00
CO	13.50	14.50	15.00	16.00	14.00	14.30
ID	12.20	12.50	14.20	14.60	12.60	13.00
KS.....	13.00	13.50	16.50	16.50	13.50	14.00
MT	15.90	16.20	17.40	18.70	16.20	17.30
NE	23.00	22.50	27.50	27.50	25.20	25.00
NV	10.60	12.20	12.00	12.50	12.00	12.50
MN.....	9.70	9.50	11.90	11.50	11.00	10.80
ND	13.00	13.70	14.20	16.00	13.50	14.50
OK	8.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	8.50	8.00
OR	13.00	13.00	15.10	15.70	12.50	12.80
SD.....	17.60	18.40	21.50	21.90	19.20	19.50
TX.....	10.00	9.40	10.80	9.00	9.80	9.90
UT.....	11.80	11.60	13.80	13.60	13.10	13.00
WA	10.80	9.70	12.50	12.50	10.80	12.20
WY	13.90	14.80	16.00	17.00	14.30	15.50
17-State ^{3/}	13.10	13.20	15.30	15.20	13.70	14.00
16-State ^{4/}	14.30	14.60	17.10	17.60	15.20	15.60
11-State ^{5/}	13.30	13.70	15.50	16.20	13.80	14.60
9-State ^{6/}	13.00	13.00	15.10	14.80	13.60	13.80

¹The average rates are estimates based on survey indications of monthly lease rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land from the January Cattle Survey.

² Includes animal unit plus cow-calf rates. Cow-calf rate converted to animal unit (AUM) using (1 aum=cow-calf *0.833).

³ 17 Western States:All States listed.

⁴ 16 Western States:All States except Texas.

⁵ 11 Western States: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA,and WY.

⁶ 9 Great Plains States: CO, KS, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, and WY.

⁷ Insufficient data.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at:

- Feb. 14 - Turkey Hatchery
- Feb. 15 - Crop Values
- Feb. 15 - Potato Stocks
- Feb. 17 - Milk Production
- Feb. 21 - Cold Storage - Monthly
- Feb. 21 - Cold Storage - Annual
- Feb. 24 - Cattle on Feed
- Feb. 24 - Livestock Slaughter
- Feb. 24 - Trout Production
- Feb. 27 - Chickens and Eggs - Annual
- Feb. 28 - Chickens and Eggs -monthly
- Feb. 28 - Agricultural Prices